

Friis, John

From: cgml54@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:09 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Letter in Support of HB 6666, section 5, for Monday, March 16, 2009

**Letter in Support of HB 6666, Section 5
Adjunct Instructor Certificate**

March 16, 2009

Cindy Gerstl and Mark Lex, parents of student
Educational Center for the Arts - ECA
55 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischman, and members of the Committee,

We are parents of an ECA student and are writing in support of HB 6666, section 5, the requirement to authorize ECA faculty to obtain certification under an adjunct instructor certificate, contained in section 5 of HB 6666, which we support.

ECA is a school whose very mission is to employ professional artists to mentor students by handing on the same intensive training that they themselves received. The school itself is part-time, and our daughter, like the other ECA students, attends ECA in addition to carrying a full academic course load taught by certified full-time educators. ECA's professional artists are highly trained in their fields, and hand on to their students their own up-to-date, first-hand knowledge of what it takes to make it in the careers their students hope to enter---theater, in our daughter's case. ECA instructors bring to our children the important benefits of their experience as practicing artists.

The philosophy of ECA is that by learning directly from professional artists how to work with equal parts passion, task commitment, and discipline in the arts, students will learn how to think and work creatively not only in the arts but in the rest of life, as well.

In the nearly two years our daughter has attended ECA, she has grown to respect her instructors both as teachers and as professional artists, and they have added much to her development as a student, a budding artist and a young woman.

We urge you to relax the certification requirements for the part-time instructors at ECA---a part-time school--- so that they can continue teaching and mentoring in the school, while bringing with them the richness of their concurrent professional work.

The members of this committee should support House Bill 6666, section 5.

Respectfully,
Cindy Gerstl and Mark Lex

3/16/2009